

THE TIMES DAILY SERIAL STORY

THE VINTAGE

By JOSEPH SHARTS

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Synopsis of chapters already published.

Miss Della Coyle, en route to Richmond to see her brother, Henry, who is a prisoner charged with having furnished the Federalists with a list of Lee's troops in the Rapidan, encounters Col. Elijah Biedow, chief of the Confederate secret service, at Cold Harbor, where he is seeking two spies supposed to have the list. While he captures one and a suspect, the real spy escapes, aided by Miss Coyle, who believes his story. He is a wounded Confederate whom Biedow is seeking to kill as the result of a private feud in Richmond. President Davis permits her to visit her brother, Capt. Floyd Coyle, who is held in a prison camp, and she seeks the spy, "James Potter," because he has told her only he could save her brother.

CHAPTER IX (Continued).

ELLA, who devoted a certain time every day, like other Southern women, to sewing or knitting for the soldiers, was on the shady side-porch one morning, sewing a flannel shirt, when Lymus happened to carry an empty barrel around the house. She beckoned to him, for the sight of the stout negro had given her an idea.

"Yes, missy," said Lymus, setting down the barrel and removing his cap.

"You remember, Lymus," she asked, "the night I stopped at Old Cold Harbor on my way to town?"

"Yes, missy."

"Did you see a crippled soldier around there that night?"

Lymus scratched his wool and flicked his eyelids as though making a great effort to remember. At the same time he was slyly watching his little mistress.

"Falls like I recollect a one-legged soldier somehows," he ventured at last.

"He was young, a little over middle height, don't you remember? He was a tinner, a very striking, strong-looking man, with sandy-red hair, and bright eyes that seemed to pierce right through you?"

"Yes, missy."

"Since we've been in town, have you ever noticed him, the soldier?"

Lymus pondered a while, his face stolid. He was a person of more than ordinary gravity of deportment, was Lymus, very deliberate and oracular in conversation. It was well known, for he took care to be so, that he had long ago got "licked."

He spent hours in prayer and solemn musing; at colored Baptist meetings his serious head, rising amid the dusky congregation, and his melodious, resonant voice telling of his "experience," were always remembered with awe and respect.

Did Lymus permit the broad droop of his face to break the sober front which he wore, but to lack of pity and standing. But now, when he looked up sideways, there was a sly grin under the wiry black beard that fringed his mouth.

"Was missy wantin' to see dat soldier, 'patience'?" he asked, evading a direct answer.

"Oh, so much! He might be of the greatest service."

"Bout Mawse Floyd?"

"Yes."

"Reckon if I was to hunt for him I must find him," said the negro suddenly.

"Do," she cried, delighted. "You can go about the poorer quarters of the city, where I can't search, but to lack of you—I'll give you those striped trousers of my uncle's that you admired so much."

"Thankee, missy," chuckled Lymus, and, winking rapidly over some scheme that had occurred to him, he carried the barrel away.

Della's promise of such a moderate reward—as due, not to lack of desire to speed Lymus's search, but to lack of means. She had fled from her own home almost destitute, and now poverty was beginning to make a ghastly appearance in the Vaughan household.

Philip Vaughan's income was derived from long-term bonds, and from a small farm on Gravelly Run, south of Petersburg. It could not, therefore, expand with the rapid devaluation of the currency; and now that the cost of everything had enormously increased, the economy which had much ado to make both ends meet.

No admission from the old gentleman himself would ever have informed Della of the specter in the house. Mr. Vaughan was a proud and sensitive soul, full of impracticable sentiments, and without as helpless as a child in money matters. If the accumulating bills caused him any anxiety, it was revealed only in his disposition to retire somewhat earlier than usual to his room, where he would lock the world out and scribble away at one of his rhapsodies on his violin. The thought of confessing his difficulty to his niece would have seemed to him a gross breach of hospitality, but an abnegation of his manhood.

One morning, however, when Della had gone into the kitchen next to her long, itemized bill for unpaid groceries.

"My uncle is not up yet," said she, quite alarmed by the amount; "but I am sure there is some mistake. He always pays his household bills at the end of the week."

"I only wish to thunder, miss," cried the grocer, "that he keep it up, then! That bill for four weeks' standing, as she spoke, under the open windows of her uncle's room, and a moment later Philip Vaughan emerged, his face pale and looking in the fresh morning light, unwontedly sallow and thin.

"Fetch that to the grocer, who hastened to comply.

In spite of the rumpled dressing gown and faded silk and his bulging pocket of rolled manuscripts, there was a fine, erect gentility about the feeble old gentleman—his gait, his bearing, which quite withered the irate grocer, and caused him to become profuse of apologies.

"Hm-hm," said Philip Vaughan, running his eye carelessly down the formidable list of items. "Henceforth he pleased to present your bill to me, and not to annoy the ladies of my house, sir. You will be paid in full tomorrow. Good day."

"Upon the grocer's discomfited departure, Della expressed a hope that there would be no difficulty in paying so large a bill.

"Not at all," replied her uncle, finely waving his thin, white hand. "He has engaged of late upon my heroic ode which the lamentable death of Stonewall Jackson inspired." Thereupon, for her benefit, he began to declaim:

"He who 'midst th' embattled legions strode, Scanning the serried ranks with eagle eye."

"I fear that my coming to live with you," she faltered, "and bringing my two servants, has greatly increased your expenses."

"No lady's company," declared Philip Vaughan, with another stately gesture, "no lady's company can ever be expensive to a gentleman. Yours, my dear, is a priceless boon! Let us go in to breakfast. Henry," he called to his butler, "bring me the coffee and the toast."

So splendid of the subject that none would have suspected that the matter troubled him. At breakfast he would discuss nothing but poetry, and repeated several stanzas of his ode in a rolling, sonorous voice, waving his fork. Yet once he interrupted himself with a strange display of irritability toward Henry when that sable functionary dropped a saucer on the floor.

"How much longer," cried he, as

though trying to work himself into a rage, "am I to endure your impertinent awkwardness?"

"Marse Phil," expostulated Henry, amazed at the unusual outburst, "you are making it out by your hands with that fork you's wain'!"

"Be silent, you miserable wretch!" exclaimed the master.

For the rest of the day he was invisible, shut in the library, supposedly engaged upon his ode, and Henry carried out his meals to him.

Late that night, when Della was lying on her bed sleepless, thinking of her father's behavior, she heard a faint knock, and although the key was familiar with her uncle's eccentricities, the lateness of the hour disquieted her. Barfooted, she crept into the room, and found the door of the stairs and looked down. There was no light below, but from the sounds she heard she felt that the old man was shuffling in his carpet-slippers the whole length of the hall, and playing to himself.

He rose earlier than usual the next morning, dressed himself for the street, and ordered Henry to accompany him downtown. A little before noon he came home alone, and at dinner the comely young cook, Betsy, came in and served the meal.

"Why," exclaimed Della on perceiving the change of waiters, "where's Henry, Uncle Philip?"

"The old gentleman's smile was as impenetrable as adamant."

"Tell-m-Henry, you see," he replied, "he's been out to the office, and he's impertinent besides. I have—er—disposed of Henry. But, as I was saying, the next time he'll sweep the coward off."

"To scape his dreadful cirque, flee like the wind."

Here, again, you will observe, my dear, to give the impression of nervousness, vivacity, a poetic license of which there are innumerable examples among the poets of the world."

Putting two and two together, Della hid upon the dismal truth of the matter, and had been sold to pay the grocery bill.

Such an expedient indicated, of course, that Philip Vaughan had been in a desperate way. After pondering the gloomy situation until evening, the girl sailed into her uncle's room, caught him with his head bowed upon his hands, and wrung from him a confession.

"There's just one thing for us to do, Uncle Philip," announced she when the old gentleman, in considerable embarrassment and trying to hide his tears, refused to let her know the details of his body-servant at Lumpkin's slave-mart, "there's just one thing to do. We must pocket our pride, and make a dash for it, and get out of here as quick as we can. Everybody has them now. When one wakes up Franklin street the windows are open, and the fairies are in the air. Then, too, if we have lodgers I can keep my Bina and Lymus to do the menial work. Otherwise I'd feel like not to burden you with my servants."

"Lodgers—in my house?" he gazed blankly at her a moment, and then, suddenly, he said: "What would you think if Philip Vaughan were to accept, tomorrow, on the 23rd of May, and his daughter were to go to the Philippines, where Major Swift was ordered to duty several months ago?"

Miss Katherine Swift, who had been at school in Baltimore, and the other girls, who were now in New York, would join her mother here tomorrow, and on the 23rd of May, and his daughter were to go to the Philippines, where Major Swift was ordered to duty several months ago."

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Miss Edith Coyle and F. E. Matthes

Married at Noon at Radford Home

Pretty Home Wedding Is

Attended Only by Relatives.

A pretty wedding took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. K. Radford at noon today, when their niece, Miss Edith Lovell Coyle, daughter of Mr. Coyle and the late Randolph Coyle, became the bride of Francis Emil Matthes. The Rev. G. Freeland Peter, of the Church of the Epiphany, officiated, in the presence of a small company of relatives.

The house was effectively decorated with palms, ferns, and white blossoms, and a string orchestra furnished the wedding music.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, William Radford Coyle, of Bethlehem, Pa., wore a beautiful gown of ivory chiffon over satin, made in princess style. Her veil of old lace, which had been worn by her grandmother, was held in place with a wreath of orange blossoms and forget-me-nots, and her bridal bouquet was a shower of lilies of the valley and forget-me-nots.

A diamond brooch, the gift of the bridegroom's mother, was her only jewelry.

Miss Mary Radford and Miss Sophie Radford, cousins of the bride, in dainty white lingerie gowns, trimmed with blue ribbons, were the bridesmaids. They carried bouquets of white sweet peas, tied with blue gauze ribbons, and wore bands of blue ribbon in their hair.

Walter C. Mendenhall was best man for Mr. Matthes.

A reception followed breakfast and informal reception which followed the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Mendenhall left Washington for their bridal trip to the Pacific Coast. The bride traveled in a tailored suit of blue serge.

Mr. Mendenhall is connected with the Geological Survey, and is to be stationed in Washington State all summer. They will return here in the autumn.

Wife of General Murray

Departure for Long Island.

Mrs. Murray, wife of Maj. Gen. Arthur Murray, U. S. A., left Washington today for Long Island, where she will spend a week making a series of visits. About the end of the month, Mrs. Murray and her daughters will go to New England for the summer, and in the fall they will go to San Francisco, where General Murray has been ordered to duty.

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